**American Government**

**Ch. 10: Congress**

**9-28-2012**

***Instructions: Read ch. 10, sec. 1 and 2, pages 266-280. Answer the following focus questions.***

1. What is the basic function of the National Legislature or Congress?

2. Explain the term “bicameral legislature .”

3. Explain the 3 reasons for a bicameral legislature.

4. Explain what a “term” of Congress is. How long is each term?

5. What changes did the 20th Amendment make?

6. Explain what is mean by a “session” of Congress.

7. How many sessions are their in each term of Congress?

8. When does the second session convene?

9. When does Congress adjourn?

10. What is the stipulation for adjournment?

11. What does Article II, Section 3 provide?

12. What are “special sessions”? Who may call for a special session?

***The House of Representatives***

13. What is the size of the House of Representatives?

14. House is the apportionment of seats determined?

15. What other entities are represented in the House of Representatives?

16. What is the term of a member of the House?

17. Why did the Framers choose a short term?

18. What is the term limit for a member of the House?

19. What does Article I direct Congress to do in terms of reapportionment?

20. What did the Reapportionment Act of 1929 provide for?

21. When are congressional elections held?

22. What is meant by the term “off year” elections?

23. How are congressional districts determined?

24. What is meant by the term “gerrymandering”? What forms may it take?

25. What are the formal and informal qualifications for House members?